

DISCLOSE ACT

(Ms. CHU asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. CHU. Thanks to the Supreme Court decision on Citizens United, corporations can now make unlimited donations without disclosing who they are. The result is a government for hire to the highest bidder.

Think about it. Are you a corrupt oil company that hates those annoying safeguards that protect Americans' health, but restrict your ability to drill, baby, drill? No problem. Find a candidate that will turn a blind eye and donate until they win. Or maybe you're a billionaire on Wall Street who leveraged away the savings of the American people for a big paycheck in 2008, but now you're being held back by Wall Street reform. Not to worry. Buy a candidate with a super PAC. Nobody needs to know who you even are.

Twice this week, the DISCLOSE Act, which would end this madness and provide transparency to who's contributing in elections, has come up in the Senate. And twice this week, Republicans blocked it on a party-line vote. Americans should ask the GOP: Why?

TAXES

(Mrs. BIGGERT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. BIGGERT. Mr. Speaker, massive tax increases loom on our horizon. If Congress doesn't act before January 1, middle class families will see a return of the marriage penalty, the AMT, higher rates on capital gains, dividends, estates, and painful tax hikes on incomes. According to a new study, the President's tax plan would cost us more than 700,000 American jobs.

Mr. Speaker, we all hear from our neighborhood businesses back home who say Congress can't raise taxes during a recession and expect the economy to generate new jobs. Yet some of my colleagues seem content to tax anyone who might have enough revenue to hire and then hope the voters blame someone else when it hurts the middle class.

Well, I don't care about the blame game. I care about jobs and the economy. Let's stop the tax hikes, extend current rates, and work immediately on effective reforms to lower rates, close loopholes, and promote growth.

LAW OF THE SEA TREATY

(Mr. FARR asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. FARR. I rise today to express my shocking disappointment with some Republican Members of the other body in opposing the Senate ratification of the Law of the Sea Treaty. The Law of the Sea Treaty ratification is essential to protect American interests. For over

30 years now, the United States Navy and the U.S. Coast Guard, both under Republican and Democratic administrations, former Secretaries of State, and U.S. military personnel have been consistent and strong proponents of U.S. joining the Law of the Sea Convention. Defense Secretary Leon Panetta recently said:

Not since we acquired the lands of the American West and Alaska have we had such a great opportunity to expand U.S. sovereignty.

Former Secretary of Defense Robert Gates said:

The Law of the Sea provides clear guidance on the appropriate use of the maritime domain.

As the world's major maritime power with the longest coastline, the U.S. has more to gain from legal certainty and public order in the world's oceans than any other country. It has been supported by every President since Ronald Reagan. The time is due for the other body to take a leadership role and ratify the Law of the Sea Treaty.

ARMY DEPOTS PLAY VITAL ROLE IN MILITARY READINESS

(Mr. FARENTHOLD asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. FARENTHOLD. I rise today to express my concern regarding the reduction in funding for Army depots and arsenals contained in the Defense appropriations bill that we're debating today on the House floor. Army studies have shown that these reductions will have a lasting negative impact on the Army's organic industrial base.

I have the privilege of representing the Corpus Christie Army depot, known as the "best kept secret in the Army," saving taxpayers millions of dollars. It costs about \$6.7 million to repair a crash-battle damaged Blackhawk versus \$17 million for a new one. In fiscal year 2011, a record production year, CCAD produced more than \$47 million in cost savings for the Army. The depot shares a great relationship with the community, employing over 6,000 civilian, 56 percent of whom are veterans. The Army depot serves as the world's largest facility for the repair and overhaul of Army aviation helicopters. Without CCAD, the Army would be unable to sustain maximum combat power for the warfighter.

I look forward to working with the committee and the chairman to address these concerns and ensuring the Corpus Christie Army depot and others depots and arsenals continue to play a vital role in maintaining the readiness of our military.

INTERNATIONAL AIDS CONFERENCE

(Mrs. CHRISTENSEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. With the International AIDS Conference less than a week away, I join my colleagues to celebrate the progress we've made in the fight against HIV/AIDS, to honor those who have lost their battle to this disease, and also to remind everyone that we still have much work to do in Sub-Saharan Africa, the Caribbean and Asia, but also the United States, where more than 1 million people—a disproportionate number of whom are people of color—are living with HIV and AIDS today. Blacks and Latinos together account for 64 percent of all new HIV infections, yet are only about 28 percent of the population. The AIDS case rate among African Americans is nearly 10 times higher than that of whites; and one recent study found that 2 percent of all blacks in the U.S., compared to only .2 percent of all whites, are HIV positive. In my district, the U.S. Virgin Islands, which is predominantly black and Hispanic, we're extremely hard hit, with the third largest AIDS case rate in the Nation.

The conference offers all of us an opportunity to reinvigorate our commitment to battling this disease, to reinforce existing relationships and forge new ones with the leaders in the fight against HIV/AIDS, and to take significant steps toward making HIV/AIDS a disease of the past.

ILLINOIS' 14TH DISTRICT 2012 OLYMPIANS

(Mr. HULTGREN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HULTGREN. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to recognize the remarkable accomplishments of six athletes from Illinois' 14th Congressional District who will represent the United States at the 2012 Olympics in London. Twin brothers Grant and Ross James from DeKalb will both compete as part of the men's eight rowing team. Track and field athlete Evan Jager of Algonquin will compete in the steeplechase. Anna Li of Aurora will travel to London as an alternate member of the women's gymnastics team. Charlie Jayne of Elgin will serve as alternate for the equestrian team. Finally, the men's volleyball team will include Sean Rooney, a graduate of Wheaton-Warrenville South High School.

Each of these men and women are making us so proud as they represent Illinois and the United States this summer. The House of Representatives wishes them the best of luck.

READ IT AND WEEP

(Mr. McDERMOTT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, wonders never cease. I picked up The Hill this morning, which is a local newspaper that most people read once in a